

A DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE INVESTIGATION

# Horace has history as a sexual predator



JAMIE GERMANO staff photographer

**The imposter** From the back seat of a State Police car, John L. Horace talks with reporters in October, after being arrested for impersonating a physician.

A profile of the aide accused of raping a comatose woman reveals the vulnerability of our health care system

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By Steve Orr  
STAFF WRITER

**J**ohn L. Horace, accused of rape on Tuesday, is in jail, facing criminal charges that could keep him there until he is 84 years old.

"Jane Doe," the woman he is accused of raping and impregnating, is in a nursing home, locked in a coma from which she likely will never awaken.

She is unique in one way: Never before has a woman in her condition conceived and born a child, doctors say.

But if she is Horace's victim, as prosecutors assert, she is one of many.

A *Democrat and Chronicle* investigation reveals that over the past few decades, the 52-year-old Horace has often been accused of sexually preying upon women.

His alleged victims include hospital patients and nursing home residents, fellow health care

workers, women who responded to his personal ads and those who may have sought his services as a self-styled sex therapist.

Yet until recent months, Horace was arrested only once for sexual abuse — of a 15-year-old relative, 27 years ago.

He escaped legal sanction for that alleged crime, as well as for at least three incidents in which employers fired him for what they believed to be inappropriate sexual conduct with employees, patients and patients' relatives. None of those employers ever called police or New York state regulators.

In the rape case, Horace has pleaded not guilty. Prosecutors say DNA tests indicate a 99.99999 percent probability that he is guilty.

The tale of the former aide reveals the vulnerability of the health care system, and society in general, to a sexual predator who appears to play by the rules.

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